

CLAIMS

1. A method for packaging articles with a film of plastic material, characterized in that it includes the following  
5 steps:
  - continuous feeding of a band of plastic film (6) to conveying means (5),
  - application of at least one strip of glue (18) along a longitudinal edge of said band of plastic film  
10 (6);
  - application of at least one series of zones of glue (19), regularly spaced apart, crosswise to said band of plastic film (6);
  - orderly transferring of a series of articles (2) to  
15 be packaged to said conveying means (5), above said band of plastic film (6) supplied to the same conveying means (5), respectively in positions delimited between said transversal zones of glue (19);
  - folding of longitudinal edges of said band of plastic film (6) over said articles to assume a tubular form around the articles (2) being packaged overlapping said longitudinal edges of said band of plastic film (6), with said longitudinal strip of  
25 glue (18) remaining between said opposite edges of the band (6);
  - joining said edges of the band of plastic film (6) along said longitudinal strip of glue (18) and said transversal zones of glue (19);

- crosswise cutting of said band of plastic film (6) at the portions situated between said transversal zones of glue (19), in order to obtain single packages of articles (2).

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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said longitudinal strip of glue (18) and said transversal zones of glue (19) are applied to the same side of said band of plastic film (6).

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3. A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said longitudinal strip of glue (18) and said transversal zones of glue (19) are applied to this side of said band of plastic film (6), which is to be turned to the inside 15 of the package of articles (2).

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said longitudinal strip of glue (18) is applied continuously along one of said longitudinal edges of said 20 band of plastic film (6).

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said longitudinal strip of glue (18) and said transversal zones of glue (19) are applied to said band of plastic 25 film (6) in a station (C) situated upstream of an area, where the articles (2) to be packaged enter said conveying means (5).

30 6. An apparatus for packaging articles with a film of plastic material, characterized in that it includes:

- conveying means (5), on which a band of plastic film (6) is fed continuously;
- a glue application station (C), where a suitable glue is applied;
- 5 first glue applying means (8), located at said glue application station for applying at least one strip of glue (18) along a longitudinal edge of said band of plastic film (6);
- second glue applying means (9), located at said glue application station for applying at least one series of crosswise zones of glue (19), regularly spaced apart to the band of plastic film (6);
- 10 stationary folding means (10) for folding longitudinal edges of said band of plastic film (6) over said articles to assume tubular form around the articles (2) being packaged and moving along the conveying means (5), with the longitudinal edges of said band of plastic film (6) overlapped so that said longitudinal strip of glue (18) remains between said opposite longitudinal edges of the band (6);
- 15 means (11,13) for stabilizing a joining of said longitudinal edges of said band of plastic film (6) along said longitudinal strip of glue (18) and said transversal zones of glue (19);
- 20 means (12) for cutting crosswise said band of plastic film (6) at portions located between said transversal zones of glue (19), in order to obtain single packages of articles (2).
- 25 7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that said means for crosswise cutting said band of

plastic film (6) include a pair of counter-rotating rollers (13A, 13B), at least one of which carries a radial blade (50), and two presser elements (60A, 60B), situated on both sides of the blade (50) for compressing 5 adjacent portions (19A, 19B) of a transversal zone of glue (19) in step relation to cutting, by said blade (50), of the transversal strip (19) in order to separate the two portions (19A, 19B).

10 8. A package obtained by the method of claim 1, including an article wrapped in a sheet (6) of plastic material having crosswise ends (19A, 19B) closed by strips of glue (19) and longitudinal edges of the sheet also joined to each other by means of a strip of glue (18).

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9. A package as in claim 8, wherein a strip of glue (19) is present at each crosswise end (19A, 19B) between the upper and lower portions of the sheet (6) wrapped in tubular form around the article.

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10. A package as in claim 8, wherein a strip of glue (18) is present between longitudinal overlapped edges of sheet (6) wrapped in tubular form around the article.

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